

STORY IN PLANT LIFE.

GOVERNMENT BUREAU IS DOING A GREAT WORK.

Report of the Work in This State During This Year—Some Important Results.

A very interesting report of the work done in South Carolina by the bureau of plant industry has been made by Dr. P. T. Galloway for the annual report of Commissioner Watson. It will be a revelation to many readers in South Carolina to learn the amount of money spent in this line in this work, and the character of the investigations and experiments, which include not only cotton, but sorghum, watermelons, rice, matting, corn, tea and drug plants, etc.

The report is as follows:

The bureau of plant industry has been conducting important cotton investigations in South Carolina for several years. One phase of the work has been the improvement of cotton by breeding and selection. This work has been in direct charge of Mr. E. B. Boykin, who has had breeding plots at Lamar and Columbia, where several valuable varieties of early cotton have been developed, viz., the Keenan, the Pride of Georgia and improved strains of the Sistrums and Hawkins, which are proving well adapted to South Carolina conditions. Some of these varieties are being distributed this year in the congressional cotton seed distribution.

In addition to the breeding work on the experimental plots, Mr. Boykin has induced a number of farmers in different parts of the State to begin sections of their own, and he has recently established some breeding plots in the seventh congressional district as far from Sumter. The national department of agriculture is expending annually in this work, between four and five thousand dollars.

Another phase of the cotton work has been the development of disease resistant strains of upland cotton under the direction of Mr. W. A. Orton. Experiments with the object of developing a wilt resistant strain of this cotton were begun nine years ago at Lamar, and have been continuously prosecuted at various points in South Carolina since that date. The wilt disease makes it impossible to grow cotton on many thousands of acres of the sandy lands in the coastal plain region. As a result of the work two varieties of upland cotton have been developed which are fully resistant to the wilt. These are now being grown very widely in the south and several hundred bushels of specially grown seed are distributed each year through seedsmen and representatives in congress. This work is being made use of in connection with the farmers' cooperative demonstration work under Dr. Knapp. Personal visits to farmers who have received seed have shown that they have been successful in avoiding loss from wilt through the use of the resistant varieties, with the exception of a few instances, where the land was infested with a second disease called root knot. Methods to control the root knot disease are also being worked out.

In connection with this work experiments have also been conducted to develop cowpeas resistant to these diseases. This work has brought out the fact that large areas of the sandy lands of South Carolina are subject to root knot infection, and that the disease is in many cases propagated by the use of ordinary cowpeas used in rotation, further that it may be controlled by a rotation of non-susceptible crops, such as corn, small grains, velvet beans, and the iron cowpeas, a variety shown by our work to be immune to both wilt and root knot. The work on the root knot is also very important in connection with the vegetable growing industry of the State, and there is need for a further campaign to convince farmers of the necessity for a change in their methods to avoid this danger.

In connection with the work on cowpea diseases, the nature and means to control several other diseases of the cowpea have been worked out, and some promising new varieties developed, which are resistant to wilt and root knot.

Experiments are also under way to work out the life history of cotton anthracnose, its relation to seed infection and other diseases, and to demonstrate practical methods of control. This project will require considerable time for its completion.

This work has been in progress at Monetta, S. C., since 1900 and has had for its object the development of a variety of watermelon capable of being grown on wilt-infested land. Watermelon will be a disease closely related to the cotton and cowpea wilts, which makes it impossible to grow melons with safety more than once on any sandy soil. A new variety of watermelon of hybrid origin has been developed by Mr. W. A. Orton, who is in charge of the work, and it appears that he has succeeded in securing wilt resistance, coupled with first class shipping qualities and a pro-

duct ranking in flavor with the best of the present shipping varieties.

Work has recently been begun to find out a remedy for this disease by Mr. M. B. Waite, at Orangeburg, but the work has not advanced sufficiently to report any results.

For several years the department has expended annually between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in an investigation of the possibilities in drug plant cultivation in South Carolina. These experiments are being carried on at present in cooperation with Mr. J. W. McCown at Florence, and Mr. E. Cottingham, at Ebenezer. The plants under investigation are paprika and cayenne peppers, castor beans, cascara sagrada, and a number of other drug plants. The main emphasis so far has been laid on the paprika pepper business. This year (1908) the crop of paprika grown in connection with the South Carolina experiment totals about 20,000 pounds of dried peppers, which will probably be marketed before the close of the year at a price of about 11 cents per pound to prominent New York spice grinders.

About three tons of American worm seed have been harvested in a test carried on during two seasons, and this material will not be marketed.

The outlook for the growing of cayenne pepper to supply the demand for the dried and ground product is very good, and this will be undertaken on a commercial scale next year.

At the present time the indications are good for the development in the country about Florence of a small industry in connection with the pepper business, and possibly also in the cultivation of the castor bean. It seems probable from preliminary experiments made with a number of other drug plants which have been grown there, that the limit of possibilities of this section of the country in this direction has not yet been reached, but can profitably be made the subject of further investigation.

Work in South Carolina on the production of tea as a commercial proposition has been in progress for a number of years at Summerville, and was undertaken more recently at Rantowles. At Summerville the department is working in connection with Dr. Chas. U. Sheppard, the funds applied to tea culture at this point having been greatly diminished during the current fiscal year (1908-09), owing to the fact that there seems to be diminishing need for the department's aid here. Further efforts are now being directed chiefly toward devising new types of machinery for doing away with the slow and expensive practice of pruning and picking tea by hand. Mr. George F. Mitchell, scientific assistant, representing the department is stationed with Dr. Sheppard at Summerville, and besides aiding him in connection with factory and field management, has designed during the present year, and is now perfecting a mechanical tea pruner. Mr. Mitchell is sending out tea plants to farmers in various localities in the South, who wish to undertake tea growing for home use, and is fostering this work by keeping in touch with these growers. The total amount which is being expended by the national department for tea work in South Carolina during the current year is \$4,350.

Important work is now being done in South Carolina in the introduction of the matting sedge culture as a new farm crop on the rice plantations. There have been invented in New England looms which can weave a better quality of floor matting than any that is now made by hand in the Orient and imported every year to an amount of over five million dollars' worth. For the last three years these looms have been running on raw material that is imported from Japan and China, but the obstacles that have been put in the way of the export of this straw from these countries makes it impossible for the manufacturers to continue the making of these floor mattings unless the Carolina farmers can grow on their rice plantations the straw for the looms. The department of agriculture has introduced from Japan and China large quantities of the young sedge plants and has established a small plantation near Charleston. This year the first crop of straw was harvested, cured and woven into the first piece of all-American grown and made matting. The quality of this straw was as good as anything that has been introduced from China or Japan, and the first important step in the establishment of this industry has been successfully taken. Special machinery for the splitting of the sedges has been devised, and a mechanical drier is being constructed on which the split sedge straw can be dried. These are matters of detail which must be worked out before the industry is fully on its feet. There seems to be no reason why this infant farm industry, if it is not crushed by Oriental competition, should not develop rapidly and through American ingenuity result in a cheaper as well as a superior floor covering for the masses, and give to the rice planters of the coast of the Carolinas another crop than rice.

During the season just passed the bureau of plant industry conducted ex-

periments on rice in South Carolina for the purpose of securing a variety, or varieties of rice resistant to blast, and to determine the effects of environment upon the composition of rice. This work of selection along with breeding for resistance is undoubtedly the only practical way to fight the blast, which is causing such heavy losses to planters along the Atlantic coast, and will be continued until immunity from this disease is established in some strain. This work has been done on the Creighton plantation on the Pon Pon river, owned and managed by Mr. W. E. Haskell, Jr., Jacksonboro, S. C.

AMERICA HOLDS DIVORCE RECORD.

United States Leads All Other Countries According to Statistics.

The divorce rate appears to be much higher in the United States than in any of the foreign countries for which statistics relating to the subject have been obtained, not less than one marriage in twelve in this country ultimately terminating in divorce. This fact has been ascertained by the census, which has just completed a compilation of statistics of marriage and divorce covering the twenty years from 1887 to 1906, inclusive. Similar statistics for the previous twenty years were gathered some years ago.

The figures show that at the end of the forty year period divorces were increasing about three times as fast as the population. The divorce rate increased per 100,000 of population from 29 in 1870 to 82 in 1905, there being one divorce for every 3,441 persons in the former year, while in the latter there was one for every 1,218 persons.

During the twenty years from 1887 to 1906 the total number of recorded marriages was 12,832,044, while the number of divorces granted during this period was 945,625. For the previous twenty years the number of divorces was 328,716. At the beginning of the forty year period divorces occurred at the rate of 10,000 a year, while at the end of the period the annual number was about 68,000.

A more significant divorce rate is that which is based, not on total population, but on the total married people who can become divorced. These statistics show that in 1870 the divorce rate per 100,000 married population was 81, while in 1906 it was 200. This shows that divorce is at present two and a half times as common, compared with the married population, as it was forty years ago. Only two States in the Union, according to the statistics, show a decrease in the divorce rate between the years 1880 and 1900. These are Utah and Connecticut. In the former the rate dropped per 100,000 of population from 124 in 1880 to 92, while in the first decade of the period they increased only about two and two-thirds as fast. In the six years from 1900 to 1906, population increased 10 per cent and divorces 29.3 per cent, while in Connecticut it dropped from 61 to 50.

Six cases were divorced in Utah in which the husband obtained a divorce from his wife on the ground of "neglect to provide."

Two-thirds of the total number of divorces granted in the twenty years covered by the investigation were granted to the wife. Desertion is shown to be the most common cause of divorce, 38.9 per cent of the total being for this cause, almost half of the cases in which the divorce was granted to the husband being for this cause, while about one-third of those granted to the wife for the same cause. Of divorces granted to husbands 28.8 per cent were for adultery, while only 10 per cent of those granted to wives were for this cause. More than one-fourth of the divorce to wives were for cruelty, and about 10 per cent of those of husbands.

Drunkness was the ground for divorce in about five per cent of the cases in which the wife brought suit, and in about one per cent of those in which the husband brought suit.

Only fifteen per cent of the divorces were returned as contested. Alimony was demanded in 18 per cent of the divorces granted to the wife and granted to 12.7 per cent. The proportion of husbands who asked for alimony was 2.8 per cent and 2 per cent obtained it.

The average duration of marriages terminated by divorce is about ten years, sixty per cent of them being less than ten years. The number of years from marriage to separation was ascertained in the cases of 7,770, 929 divorced couples. Of these 98,460, or 12.8 per cent, separated in the first year of married life, and 14.2 per cent in the second year. The surprising fact was revealed that 3.1 per cent of the total number separated and became divorced after more than twenty-five years of married life.

Children were reported in 39.8 per cent of the total number of divorced cases, children being present in 46.8 per cent of the cases granted to the wife and in 26 per cent of those granted to the husband.—News and Courier.

Kisses That Cheapen and Kisses That Sweeten.

There is probably not a man alive who would not smile in unconcealed amusement could he realize the awful depth of conscious guilt and repentance into which the youthful maiden ever sinks immediately after her first kiss.

It might almost be a blow, so fearfully aware is she of its existence for hours after its happening.

She blushes and flutters whenever eyes are upon her, and feels—Oh, little Miss Rosebud Innocent!—as if that kiss were printed large for all to read.

And without knowing exactly why, she feels also that it ought not to have happened, and that she and the other person concerned are both vastly to blame.

It might be mentioned that, in the confused medley of feelings that beset her, she is acutely aware that she is glad it happened! For the first kiss, even when bestowed by a person of no special importance, is a landmark in a girl's life.

Nothing is quite the same again. Childish things are left for evermore behind. In a word—she has arrived.

Of course, by the first kiss, one understands the first kiss that matters.

The first kiss from a lover's lips. All the kisses in play by childish or boyish sweethearts need not be counted. To the girl they were just as much a part of the game as the handkerchief that fell first on her shoulder.

But when a lover kisses her!

The younger she is, the sterner the social code and judgment of dear little Miss Rosebud.

"People have no right to kiss unless they are engaged," is, very properly, one of the most fixedly implanted ideas in the mind of carefully brought up girlhood.

It is for this reason that, besides the pleasing, flattered flutter that besets her, Miss Rosebud is invariably more or less angry with the bold masculine person who has dared to take a privilege to which he has no right.

She persuades herself that she must have been behaving quite badly, that he cannot respect her properly, or he never would have dared!

And that she should so think and feel is absolutely right and desirable.

It is true that by the time she is a few years older, she will probably regard such lapses of conduct with a somewhat more lenient eye, and the fact that a kiss is oftenest the prelude to an engagement, as well as its leading theme, will have dawned upon her.

The pity is that as the weeks and months go by bringing many a gay wooer in their train, for "When maidens are fair, many lovers will come!" sometimes a charming damsel drifts to the other extreme, and comes to regard kisses and embraces much as she regards the roses and bonbons that accompany even the mildest of flirtations.

She no longer regards a kiss as a precious privilege reserved solely for those she loves, and who have a right to take it. Without even the excuse furnished by Christmas customs and mistletoe boughs, she allows Tom and Dick and Harry the rights of lawful, engaged lovers, although in her own heart she knows her interest in them is as short-lived as the mystery and moonlight of the walks and talks that lead to such indiscreet salutations.

Without in the least desiring that old heads should grow on young shoulders, one can but grieve when this is the case.

The fragrance is being insensibly stolen from the rose, the bloom brushed off the peach.

Love, it has often been said, is the atmosphere in which a woman's beauty blooms. The consciousness of being loved is, in truth, the greatest beautifier in the world.

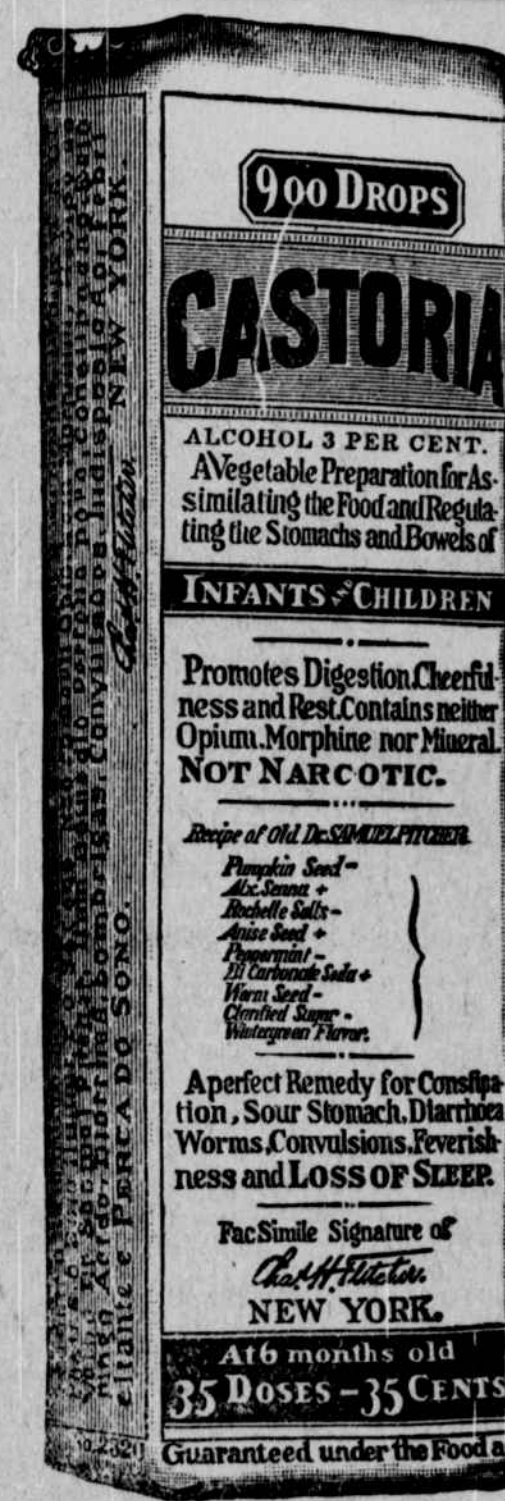
But to know herself beloved, and to allow a lover, who perhaps does not even desire to become more than a summer day admirer—to make love—are widely different things.

SENSATION IN GREENVILLE.

City Government Severely Arraigned by Board of Trade.

Greenville, Dec. 30.—At a meeting of the board of trade tonight the committee which has been appointed to investigate the city government made a sensational report. The report was read by Lewis W. Parker, the well known cotton mill president, who was chairman of the committee and was a severe arraignment of the present city administration. The charge was made that money which had been collected by levy for specific purposes other than that for which it was collected. It was also charged that the government was very extravagant and that the records are very poorly kept.

After the reading of the report H. J. Haynsworth, a prominent member of the local bar, moved that the report be laid before council and an answer to it requested at once. Mr. Haynsworth said that a severe indictment had been made against the city government. A committee was appointed to present the report to council with the request for an answer.



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For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

J. C. Atkinson

In Use For Over Thirty Years

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A Prize Contest

Will Shortly be Inaugurated by

The Bank of Sumter

For the best grain crop grown during the coming year by one of its farmer customers. Watch for details governing contest, which will appear in this space.

Begin the New Year

By opening a bank account. We want to add 500 desirable new accounts to our present growing volume during the year 1909. Confer with us, either by letter or in person, if you want banking accommodation. We always have time to listen to your wants and the facilities for supplying legitimate needs.

THE FARMERS' BANK & TRUST COMPANY,

Court Square

Sumter, S. C.

YAQUI INDIAN WAR ENDED.

Mexico's Long and Bloody Struggle With Aborigines Terminated in a Treaty of Peace.

Nogales, Arizona, Dec. 29.—The long war with Yaqui Indians in Mexico, in which scores have been killed at different times, including many Americans, has been terminated in a treaty of peace agreed upon by three Indian chiefs and 166 of their followers and the governor of the State of Sonora, Mexico.

It is reported that a cell in the police station in Greenville is haunted and the prisoners confined in that cell have harrowing experiences.

E. W. Scriven, United States revenue agent, will move his headquarters from Greensboro, N. C., to Columbia.

Medicine That Is Medicine.

"I have suffered a good deal with malaria and stomach complaints, but I have now found a remedy that keeps me well, and that remedy is Electric Bitters; a medicine that is medicine for stomach and liver troubles, and for run down conditions," says W. C. Kleistler, of H. H. Hilday, Ark. Electric Bitters purify and enrich the blood, tone up the nerve and impart vigor and energy to the weak. Your money will be refunded if it fails to help you. 50c at Sibert's Drug Store.

William Golding, colored, was arrested in Greenville while soliciting orders for a whiskey house.

Lame Shoulder Cured.

"Lame shoulder is usually caused by rheumatism of the muscles and quickly yields to a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Mrs. F. H. McElwee, of Bolstown, New Brunswick, writes: 'Having been troubled for some time with a pain in my left shoulder, I decided to give Chamberlain's Pain Balm a trial, with the result that I got prompt relief.' For sale by all druggists."

TAMM AND FORAKER QUIT.

Burton Has Free Field in His Effort to Capture Ohio Senatorship.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 31.—Announcement was made today that Charles P. Taft, brother of the President-elect, has withdrawn from the Ohio Senatorial race "in the interest of party harmony."

It is also stated that the Hamilton county delegation, the backbone of the Taft strength, would be thrown to Burton, insuring his election to succeed Foraker.

Senator Foraker issued a statement formally withdrawing from the Senatorial fight.

This leaves the field practically clear for Burton.

"Always have Kennedy's Laxative Cough Syrup handy, especially for the children. It tastes nearly as good as maple sugar. It cures the cold by gently moving the bowels through its laxative principle, and at the same time it is soothing for throat irritation, thereby stopping the cough. There is nothing as good. Sold by all druggists."

Sam Beatty, was shot to death in Anderson county Wednesday by Houston Tribble. Both negroes.

Fever Sores.

"Fever sores and old chronic sores should not be healed entirely, but should be kept in healthy condition. This can be done by applying Chamberlain's Salve. This salve has no superior for this purpose. It is also most excellent for chapped hands, sore nipples, burns and diseases of the skin. For sale by all druggists."

Representative traveling men of this State and officials of the Southern, Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard held a conference in Columbia Tuesday relative to mileage tickets.